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Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method comprising:

initializing a boot routine in a computer, the computer having modular, architecturally defined, components for build firmware;

bootstrapping a volume top file located in a first addressable location accessible upon the initializing of the boot routine, wherein the volume top file is constructed in a architecturally defined manner and is automatically executed first by platform hardware in response to a reset event; and

the volume top file bootstrapping a set of firmware modules, wherein the volume top file conforms to an Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) architecture.

Claim 2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising using the volume top file to locate a dispatcher module.

Claim 3. (original) The method of claim 2 further comprising using the dispatcher module to access the set of firmware modules.

Claim 4. (original) The method of claim 3 in which the set of firmware modules initialize the computer.

Claim 5. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising using a reset vector to access the volume top file.

Claim 6. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the volume top file includes addresses of the set of firmware modules.

Claim 7. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the volume top file includes an address of a base of a first firmware module.

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Claim 8. (original) The method of claim 7 in which the base of the first firmware module includes a boot firmware volume base.

Claim 9. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the volume top file comprises an authentication block.

Claim 10. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the volume top file validates the set of firmware modules.

Claim 11. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising designating the volume top file as a last file in the set of firmware modules.

Claim 12. (original) The method of claim 11 in which the designating includes aligning an end of the volume top file with a memory boundary.

Claim 13 (original). The method of claim 11 wherein the memory boundary includes between 4 and 10 giga bytes (Gbyte) of memory.

Claim 14. (currently amended) A system comprising:
a non-volatile memory of a computer that initializes a boot routine in the computer, the computer having modular, architecturally defined, components for build firmware;
a processing architecture of the computer configured to bootstrap a volume top file located in a first addressable location accessible upon the initializing of the boot routine; and
the volume top file configured to bootstrap a set of firmware modules, wherein the volume top file conforms to an Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) architecture, and wherein the volume top file is constructed in a architecturally defined manner to be automatically executed first by computer hardware in response to a reset event.

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Claim 15. (original) The system of claim 14 in which the volume top file is configured to locate a dispatcher module.

Claim 16. (original) The system of claim 14 in which the dispatcher module is configured to access the set of firmware modules.

Claim 17. (original) The system of claim 14 in which the set of firmware modules are configured to initialize the computer.

Claim 18. (original) The system of claim 14 in which the volume top file includes addresses of the set of firmware modules.

Claim 19. (original) The system of claim 14 in which the volume top file includes an address of a base of a first firmware module.

Claim 20. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
a processor, the processor having modular, architecturally defined, components for build firmware;
a non-volatile memory in which is stored:
a volume top file located in a first addressable location of the non-volatile memory accessed by a central processing unit (CPU) of a computer, the volume top file being architecturally defined and automatically accessible by hardware using a reset, and wherein the volume top file conforms to an Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) architecture;
a data structure associated with a first firmware module; and,
a second firmware module accessible by the volume top file.

Claim 21. (original) The apparatus of claim 20 in which a first firmware module comprises a distinguished firmware module.

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Claim 22. (original) The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising a dispatcher module located by the volume top file.

Claim 23. (original) The apparatus of claim 20 in which the set of firmware modules include an initialization routine for initializing the computer.

Claim 24. (original) The apparatus of claim 20 in which the volume top file includes an address of a base of the second firmware module.

Claim 25. (original) The apparatus of claim 24 in which the base of the second firmware module comprises a boot firmware volume base.

Claim 26. (original) The apparatus of claim 20 in which the volume top file includes an authentication block.

Claim 27. (original) The apparatus of claim 20 in which the volume top file validates the second firmware module.

Claim 28. (previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the volume top file includes bridges between code that is architecturally specified by the computer and platform code which is not architecturally specified by the computer.

Claim 29. (previously presented) The method as recited by claim 1, further comprising:

locating code and data at fixed locations required by the computer architecture.

Claim 30. (previously presented) The method as recited by claim 1, wherein the volume top file includes a priori information to access a base of firmware system, the firmware base to be used by the set of firmware modules to publish a general set of access services to discover volumes.

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Claim 31. (new) The system as recited in Claim 1, wherein the volume top file comprises a prefix data structure having a guaranteed unique identifier (GUID).